

REMARKS

Claims 15 and 16 are pending in the present case. Claim 15 is the only independent claim. By this amendment, claim 15 is amended for clarity.

Personal Interview

Applicant wishes to thank Examiner Nguyen for the courtesies extended to Applicant's representative, Carolyn Baumgardner, during the July 18, 2006 personal interview. During the interview, the differences between the claimed invention and the Kurokawa reference were discussed. The substance of the personal interview is summarized in the following remarks.

The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Final Office Action dated April 6, 2006 indicates that:

Claims 15 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,936,744 to Choi (hereafter Choi) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,811,111 to Kurokawa (hereafter Kurokawa).

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention is distinguishable from the combination of Choi and Kurokawa for at least the following reasons:

The Examiner alleges that Choi discloses in col. 5, lines 8-10 an output operation for preparing a plurality of copies of recording sheets on which an image data signal received subsequent to the receipt of the identification signal is printed. (see final Office Action, page 4). Applicant respectfully disagrees with this allegation.

A close review of Choi merely reveals that a printer 70 prints out the receiving data according to the control signal from the central processing unit 10. However, Choi fails to disclose how many copies of an image data are printed by the printer 70. Choi merely discloses a print function without any further details about the amount of copies being printed.

The Examiner concedes that Choi fails to disclose repeatedly printing the image data signal. (see Final Office Action, page 4). However, the Examiner goes on to allege that it is

commonly known in the art that some information, such as a sender's name or address, receiver's name or address, could be printed on each recording sheet. Furthermore, the Examiner alleges that Kurokawa discloses a facsimile machine that prints sender's and receiver's name together with the facsimile image data on each page of the recording sheets. (see Final Office Action, page 4).

In other words, the combination of Choi and Kurokawa merely discloses an output operation that includes "repeatedly printing sender's/receiver's information" with the facsimile image data on each page of the recording sheets. However, such a feature of Kurokawa is quite distinguishable from what is now being clearly claimed in the present invention.

For example, in the claimed invention the communication apparatus performs an output operation of repeatedly printing a plurality of copies of an image data signal representing the entire document being received into a plurality of groups subsequent to the receipt of the identification signal. In other words, the output operation prints more than one copy of the entire image data received into a plurality of groups.

In contrast with the present invention, Choi merely discloses that a printer prints out the received data without any indication about how many copies of the image data are being printed. Also, Kurokawa merely discloses repeatedly printing source station information on the top of each page.

For example, Kurokawa merely discloses that the source station information indicating the identity of the source station which transmitted the image data and the destination station information which is supposed to receive the image data are transmitted from the source station to the destination station prior to transmission of the image data, so that the source and destination station information may be indicated at top of a hard copy produced at the destination station. (see Kurokawa, Abstract). In other words, Kurokawa merely discloses sending the source and destination information along with the image data and printing the source and destination information on the top of each page of the image data.

However, applicant respectfully submits that this is not the same as repeatedly printing a plurality of copies of an image data signal representing the entire document being received into a plurality of groups ...on recording sheets, as set forth in the present invention. The source and

destination information of Kurokawa is not the same as the entire document being received. At most, Kurokawa merely prints a single copy of the image data with each page containing header information designating the sender/receiver.

In contrast with Kurokawa, in the present invention the image data is repeatedly printed creating a plurality of copies of the entire image data received into a plurality of groups on recording sheets. Furthermore, the present case performs a process wherein each group is bundled one by one after the output operation.

Applicant respectfully submits that both Choi and Kurokawa fail to teach or suggest repeatedly printing a plurality of copies of the image data signal representing the entire document being received into a plurality of groups. Furthermore, the cited art fails to teach or suggest bundling each group of copies one by one.

Thus, the combination of Choi and Kurokawa merely discloses that when the identification numbers coincide with each other, the facsimile machine repeatedly prints only the sender's/receiver's information on each page of the document. However, this feature of Kurokawa is not the same as that of preparing a plurality of copies of an entire document being received into a plurality of groups, as set forth in the present invention.

As such, applicant respectfully submits that the combination of Choi and Kurokawa fails to teach or suggest each and every feature as set forth in the claimed invention....

To establish a *prima facie* case of Obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art and not based on applicant's disclosure. *In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991). See MPEP 706.02(j).

Applicant respectfully submits that the examiner has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness at least in part because the examiner has failed to show how each and every feature is taught by the cited art.

Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of cited art fail to teach or suggest each and every feature as set forth in the claimed invention.

Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 15 is allowable over the combination of Choi and Kurokawa for at least the reasons noted above.

As for each of the dependent claims not particularly discussed above, these claims are also allowable for at least the reasons set forth above regarding their corresponding independent claims, and/or for the further features claimed therein.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

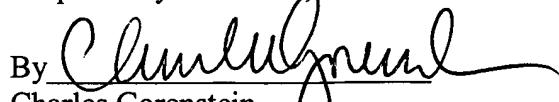
In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Carolyn T. Baumgardner (Reg. No. 41,345) at (703) 205-8000 to schedule a Personal Interview.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment from or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. §1.17; particularly, the extension of time fees.

Dated: August 4, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Charles Gorenstein
Registration No.: 29,274
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant

CG/CTB/mpe

Birch, Stewart, Kolasch & Birch, LLP